

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

Raising Children

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Ephesians 6:1-4

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How did your parents raise you? Were they authoritarian? Permissive? Balanced? How does your culture tell you to raise children today?
- How important is it that you have an intentional plan in training your children in the Lord? What might be the essential elements in such a plan?
- How might you make use of daily life circumstances to impress God's commands on your children?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Deuteronomy 6:1-25 Colossians 3:18-21

Raising Children

In our Ephesians passage, fathers are given three specific instructions in raising godly children. It can be assumed that these exhortations apply to both parents, but there is probably an assumption that fathers will take the lead.

(1) **Do not exasperate.** Do not abuse your authority in the lives of your children. Do not be overly authoritarian with them, causing them to become bitter because of the harshness of your treatment. Do not nitpick them or nag at them or be overly demanding. Do not lose your temper or always find fault.

(2) **Train.** This can be translated as discipline. The idea is to bring them up in doing what is right and for them to learn how to behave appropriately. There needs to be an intentional plan for developing them into the adults God wants them to be. An essential part of this is that they are to learn *obedience*. This must include learning to obey even when they do not understand the reasons.

(3) **Instruct.** This is clear. We are to teach our children what is right. To have an orderly and purposeful plan so that we are confident in them knowing what they need to know.

Furthermore, this training and instruction are to be 'of the Lord.' In other words, there is a specific responsibility to teach them about the Lord and to train them in the kind of life to which He calls His followers.

This short passage directs us to avoid both the mistakes of permissiveness (parents not controlling their children at all) and dominating (parents trying to over-control their children). We are to train and teach without exasperating.

Our Deuteronomy passage provides a beautiful picture in living out the above admonitions. It all begins with loving God and keeping His commands in our hearts. The best thing we can do in raising children is to cultivate our own love for the Lord by filling our hearts with His Word. (6:5-6). From there, we are to "impress" His commands on our children by talking about His Word in all kinds of circumstances. While Paul teaches us to have a plan and to be intentional in our training, Moses reminds us to make good use of the everyday situations of life - to always be alert to training situations and to bring God's Word to bear in casual conversation and in daily activities. Both make it clear that we have a solemn and holy responsibility to train our kids to love and obey God.